



MEMBERS EXCHANGE

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
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KAREN WORTH

at

98

Dancer, WW2 laborer, Army Air Force veteran, cartographer, physical therapist, Emergency Medical Technician, Commander of Jewish War Veterans, poet, wife, mother, and celebrated sculptor and medalist. In this issue we look at the indelible and prolific career of AMSA's oldest member.



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello AMSA Members,

I'm pleased to present to you this poignant issue. First, we celebrate the long life and career of our oldest living member, Karen Worth. I can remember with absolute vivid clarity the moment I first saw a medal of Karen's. I was only 18 and it was a lightbulb moment for me that showed me that a woman medalist could be as good as the men. Looking back now it seems like a silly notion, but at the time I had only been aware of the likes of Weinman and Manship and De

Lue. It gave me a strength to dare to have aspirations. I have since exceeded those childish aspirations, but it started with Karen... without her ever knowing.

At the same time, it is with great sadness that we must say goodbye to two accomplished medalists – Ann Shaper Pollack and Chester Martin. They both will be dearly missed. One of the strengths of a group like AMSA is to look out for each other, to carry on the legacy of those who pass on and honor their contributions to the art world.

As much as we are an arts organization, we are ultimately about people. This concept is perfectly reflected in the Artistic Selfies medal project. We got 19 medals in response to the call for entries in this non-juried challenge. Thanks to Art Ellis for generously sponsoring this project.

I'd also like to thank the ANA Money Museum, curator Doug Mudd and guest curator George Cuhaj for highlighting the art of the medal in a new exhibit at the Money Museum in Colorado Springs. It is always wonderful to see an exhibit of this magnitude and attention to detail. I encourage everyone who can to go see this exhibit.

No matter where we artists are in our life, the learning never stops. There are a few workshop opportunities coming up this year which you will find detailed in this issue. We always keep our eyes out for those so please let us know if you have knowledge of any others.

Coming up in our next issue will be the annual AMY award winner announcement.

Finally, I want to thank our Member's Exchange contributors. We have those who frequently do the heavy lifting as well as first time contributors who step forward to participate. We appreciate you all. Keep making medals. Keep collecting medals.

Keep sharing medals and sending in your news.



KAREN WORTH

Anne-Lise Deering

Karen Worth, our oldest and founding member of AMSA, was born in Philadelphia, March 9th 1924. At the age of nine she knew she wanted to be a sculptor, but was

interested in all the Fine Arts. While in music and dance school she invented a system of rotation that is still in use. She received her first scholarship at age 15 from Carl Milles to the Cranbrook School, at 17 to the Tyler Art School and at 18 to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts where she won numerous awards for her work. She remained active for years in all types of dance, including ballet, folk, square, flamenco and traditional Israeli. Karen is a published poet and photographer and still writes poems to this day.

During World War II she worked in the defense plant at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and at 20 she enlisted in the Army Air Force and served as a specialist instructor - physical therapy and mental rehabilitation. In the evenings she worked in cartography and topography, creating 3-D terrain maps of theaters of operations used in training. She also created fully sculptured maps of important theaters of operation, ranging from North Africa to the Battle of the Bulge. Her therapy patients constructed scale models of enemy weapons, ships and planes for use on these maps and taught other hospitals the process for which received Navy commendations.



*"There are no dull subjects, only dull sculptors.
The artist must learn to dance in his chains."*

"Into the future a human being advances in time and space: the fourth and fifth dimension. The ballistic trajectory causes shock waves and tilted arcs, scientifically documented in cinematic studies of wind tunnels with rockets, missiles and airplanes. The star is everyone's aspiration."



Millennium Medal for AMSA





OBVERSE
2



Lafayette design and resulting silver medal



"Be observant because most of the work is done in the brain"

She served for 22 years as an Emergency Medical Technician and three years as a commander of Jewish War Veterans Post #756, using her time visiting hospitals and raising funds for disabled veterans.

Karen returned to sculpture in 1959 and was elected a fellow of the National Sculpture Society in 1960. She designed her first medal for the Society of Medalists in 1963 and since then has designed over 600 coins and medals, including such diverse topics as the US Bicentennial, the Windsor Dynasty, the wedding of Prince Charles and Diana, two series of US presidents, Milestones in Space and many others. She also continued with monument and architectural sculpture.



She has been awarded the American Numismatic Society's J. Sanford Saltus Medal of Signal Achievement in the Art of the Medal and the American Numismatic Association's Sculptor of the Year Gold Medal.

The American Medallist Sculpture Association created an Honorary Lifetime Member category that Karen was awarded. This was the first time in AMSA history a member was awarded a Lifetime Membership. Karen was chosen to receive this award due to her long and distinguished career in medallist and traditional sculpture as well as her long-time membership.



The Pen & Brush Club, figurative artist Elliot Goldfinger & Karen

Karen Worth's association with The Judaic Heritage Society began in 1969 with the contribution of works to the Medallist History of the Jewish People. In 1971 she began the Medallist History of the Jews of America, consisting of 120 individual works of sculpture that she worked on for six years. Her continued creativity for the Society includes sculpture on subjects ranging from the Maccabees to Moshe Dayan and from Emma Lazarus to Golda Meir. Among the exceptional works that have won her international fame are Jacob and the Angel, Jonathan of Entebbe and a 50-year commemorative to Anne Frank. Her close collaboration with Robert Weber has extended to works outside the sphere of Judaism. Her bicentennial "Presidents of the U.S.A.", with portraits of all 37 presidents appearing for the first time in a single work, was made into an extraordinary Wedgewood plate titled "The Presidents".

"Learn to sleep fast – you will need the time for hard work."

For the 25th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation her "Silver Jubilee" medal portrayed all the 20th century monarchs of Great Britain. Regarding the Millennium 2000 medal, she says art is communication. It delivers the message without words. The collector is invited to interpret and determine which is obverse and reverse.



Karen with Heidi Wastweet 2004



Proposed Design



Battle of Britain



Karen Worth's sculpture has also been commissioned by the government of Israel, The Society of Medallists, the Freedom Foundation, the National Commemorative Society and the Societe Commemorative de Femmes Celebres. medals have been struck in Canada, Italy, and Israel and are represented in such distinguished museums as the Smithsonian Institution, West Point Academy, the B'nai B'rith museum in Washington the Ashmolean Museum of Oxford University in England, the Jewish Museum in New York and the Wolyn Memorial to the Holocaust in Jerusalem.

Today Karen is still active and continue to design and create medals in addition to writing poetry.



Karen with Michael Keropian 2022

"I promise to keep practicing my art until I get it right"



Pygmalion and Galatea; 1982
Brookgreen Gardens Medal



Ad Astra per Aspera; 1963 Society
of Medallists



1969 Apollo 11 Lunar Landing
Commemorative Medal



CHESTER Y. MARTIN

November 2, 1934 - March 16, 2022

George Cuhaj

If one spent any time with Chester Martin you learned many things. First was that he was a life-long resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee and a graduate of Kirkman Technical High School and the University of Chattanooga. He loved the history of his city and could relate stories of particular events with great enthusiasm. A visitor would often be taken to Lookout Mountain or Chickamauga battlefields and informed of the battle plans, the state-of-the-art Tennessee Aquarium, the Hunter Museum of American Art, the Medal of Honor Museum, the TVA facilities or a game of the Double-A Chattanooga Lookouts. A special treat for me was a visit to the old train station (now a hotel), a ride on the incline railway up Lookout Mountain, a tour of "Rock City" and a visit to the Chattanooga National Cemetery, where the Andrews Raiders Monument is a highlight. The early railroads of the area, highlighted by the raid on the "The General", would be an oft-visited theme of his art.



During his service stateside in the U.S. Air Force, he would spend his leaves in Europe, traveling around with his 8mm camera, taking in the sights and vistas. Visitors would often be quizzed on cloud formations and airplane contrails. His graphic arts education got him jobs as an illustrator, and he was fond of painting, in watercolor or oils, scenes of old Chattanooga or classic rural hillside cabins. One of the murals done for a local club was saved and re-located to the visitor bureau office at the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport (Lovell Field). I could not confirm if it is still there.

Some of his porcelain works honored local Chattanooga sites. Done in a bi-colored Wedgwood style, the Fireman's Fountain was so honored, as was St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, done at a time when he was trying to expand his market. Other porcelain works included an early streetcar of the St. Elmo Carline, as well as the Nyberg automobile, a locally built car. In the mid-1960s he entered several contests for U.S. commemorative stamp designs contests and every now and then he entered the national and state water fowl stamp contests.

When the American Medallic Sculpture Association was founded he was an early member and he began to learn the skills needed to do bas-relief work. He attended the 1984 three-week John Cook Medallic Workshop at Penn State. His work was selected for an F.A.O. medal (1982), a Society of Medalists medal (1980, Snail and Galaxy, SOM 50th Anniversary), and a Brookgreen Gardens Medal (1984) (where a large bronze version of his SOM Snail is on display)



and a FIDEM 50th Anniversary medal (1987). He attended the FIDEM congresses in Florence (1983), London (1992), and Budapest (1994) and had medals exhibited at most between 1983 and 2017.

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In 1993 he was awarded the American Numismatic Association's Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallic Sculpture. His medallic works are represented in the collections of the Smithsonian, the British Museum, and the Royal Swedish Coin Cabinet, among others.

His watercolors had been represented by the Seaside Art Gallery in Nags Head, North Carolina. Since the mid-2010s he had been writing a column for the on-line page [The Chattanooga.com](http://TheChattanooga.com) and the Chattanooga Times Free Press, and they are available easily via a web search.

He is survived by his wife Patricia and daughter Sharon. Memorial services will be private.



From 1986-1992 Chester was a sculptor/engraver at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. He designed the Congressional medals for Andrew Wyeth and General Colin Powell. In the modern commemorative series he did the reverse of the 1992 White House Bicentennial Silver Dollar. Mint list medals include those for the Mint Director's Conference and the Yosemite National Park Centennial.



ANN SHAPER POLLACK

In Memoriam

Published in *Boston Globe*

Ann Shaper Pollack, 89, loving wife, mother, and grandmother, passed peacefully on January 12, 2022 in Dedham, MA. Born in Louisville, KY to

Aaron A. Shaper and Rose Friedman, she grew up in Cincinnati, OH, and later raised a family in Great Neck, NY before moving to Newton and then Dedham, MA. She earned a B.A. in Art History from Long Island University, and she attended the School of the Arts at the University of Cincinnati, and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. She was an accomplished artist in multiple media, including jewelry making, silversmithing, sculpture, and medallion art, and her work is in the permanent collections of several museums. She was a member and officer of many many international sculpture associations, and she and her husband supported aspiring students in the sculptural arts. Ann is survived by her sons Jon and Richard, their wives (Fiona Epstein and Robin Mozell, respectively), and her granddaughter, Sarah Pollack. She was predeceased by her husband, Jason Pollack, and her brother James Shaper.



*Geometric
Abstraction*



Ann with Amanullah Haiderzad

*Ann with
Budapest FIDEM
medal exhibit*



Jay with Ann





Ann with Jeanne Stevens-Sollman

Remembered by Jeanne Stevens-Sollman

From Ann's Son Rich

You and many others at AMSA know of our mom's endeavors in medallic art, and that was certainly the focus of most of her artistic efforts for the past several decades. You might find it fascinating to learn that she delved into most any medium. She expressed similar levels of interest and efforts with oil painting, watercolors, pen and ink drawing (on paper and rocks), Japanese brush painting, calligraphy, metal work (silver, gold, copper), sculpture (stone and plastic), jewelry design, wood carving, and yet more. She was an avid collector of fine art and furniture, and she visited museums far and wide almost every week until those journeys became physically difficult. Medallic art took center stage and brought her the greatest joy. She coveted the deep and lasting friendships with - and the creations of - other artists, thoroughly enjoyed traveling to art congresses far and wide, and supported (with our dad) students and young artists from around the world.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name are encouraged to Brookgreen Gardens (S.C.). Our mom was particularly fond of the gardens and their dedication to the sculptural arts.


<https://www.brookgreen.org/memorial-and-tribute-gifts>



In Ann's own words

My creations, whether sculptural or functional, display a variety of styles from free-form to tightly-controlled. I strive for timelessness, originality, and beauty by casting, forging, sculpting and constructing diverse media. Although broadly trained in all forms of the fine arts, my focus is as a sculptor, medallist and jewelry designer.



The top of the page features a stylized American flag with white stars on a dark blue field and red and white stripes. To the right of the flag is a circular medal depicting a profile of a person, with the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and "1792" visible.

The **MEDAL in AMERICA**

Curated by Douglas Mudd

Guest curator for the Modern Medalist section George Cuhaj

Now open! "The Medal in America" exhibit illustrates the history of the United States from colonial times to the present, starting with the invention of modern medals and how they are made. The unique visual pageant of American leaders, events, politics, private institutions, and art is presented to tell the exciting stories of our collective past. Important George Washington related pieces from the Baker-Manley Collection recently donated by Dwight Manley will be on display.

The modern medals section includes works by AMSA Members Eugene Daub, Jeanne Stevens-Sollman, Mark Benvenuto, Heather Blume, E. Richard Bonham, Lindley Briggs, Anne-Lise Deering, Amanullah Haiderzad, Janet Indick, Keiko Kubota Miura, Jim Licaretz, James Malonebeach, Heidi Wastweet and Douglas White



Also on view are a collection of Society of Medallist issues from the ANA collection. The Medal in America exhibition opened March 11, 2022, and will be on up through Spring 2024, at the American Numismatic Association Money Museum (818 N. Cascade Ave. Colorado Springs, Co.)

Soon images of the medals and the descriptions will be available on the ANA's money.org website in a walk-thru computerization of the display







Sarah Crisp is a beginner medalist and has shared her first pieces. She has had no formal art training, is "retired" from her career in marketing, and has had little to do with art education. We here at AMSA love to see medals from all stages of an artist's journey. This is an accessible art form and all are welcome.

RECENT WORK

SARAH CRISP



Artistic Selfies

MARCH 2022



Richard Becker



Joy Beckner



Heather Blume



Lindley Briggs



Art Ellis



Amanullah Haiderzad



Keiko Kubata-Miura



Jim Licaretz



Janice MacDonald



James MaloneBeach



Polly Purvis



Jeanne Stevens-Sollman



Phil Sollman &
Jeanne Stevens-Sollman



Geer Steyn



Heather Szczepiorkowski



Susan Taylor



Mel Wacks
sculpt by Eugene Daub



Eva Wohn



Lorraine Wright



PROJECT FUNDED BY ART ELLIS

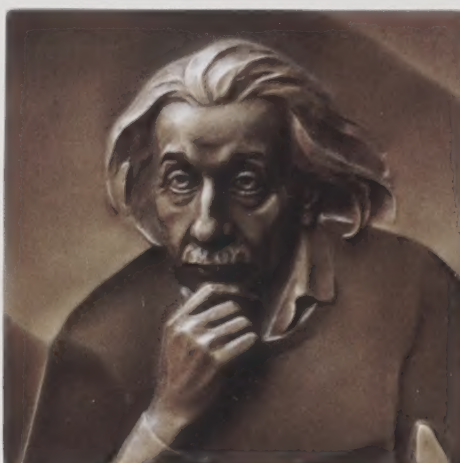


MEL WACKS JUDAICA ART MEDAL AWARD ANNOUNCED AT FIDEM TOKYO 2020/2021

At FIDEM Tokyo 2020/2021, the biennial Congress of the International Art Medal Federation, two medalists were chosen to share the Mel Wacks Judaica Art Medal Award, for Judaic, Biblical or Holy Land themes — Ewa Olsczewska-Borys of Poland and Romualdas Inčirauskas of Lithuania. Each will receive an engraved silver medal, courtesy of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, and will share the \$250 prize money, presented by the Cincinnati Skirball Museum, home of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame Medal Collection. Wacks founded the Jewish-American Hall of Fame in 1969, and has served as its director since then.



Ewa Olsczewska-Borys' medal, titled *E=mc²*, is described in the catalog as: "Albert Einstein predicted gravity waves first observed in 2015. The reverse of the medal shows the fusion of two black holes and the gravity waves this generates." The large (127 x 130 mm) rectangular cast bronze medal features a thoughtful Einstein in Ewa's dramatic personal style combining incused and raised surfaces.



The other winning medal, by Romualdas Inčirauskas, portrays Chiune Sugihara. It is also rectangular, measuring 150 x 150 mm, and described in the catalog as: "Dedicated to Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara (1900-1986), who lived in Lithuania, in Kaunas, from 1939-1940. During World War II, he saved about 6,000 Jews from Lithuania, Poland and Germany by issuing them with Japanese transit visas. The medal is dedicated to

[his] 120th birth anniversary. The symbols on the reverse convey the tragedy of the Jewish people." The reverse depicts a large Star of David intertwined with scenes of Jewish victims behind barbed wire fences of the death camps, with inscriptions: "6000 lives" and a quote from Matthew 5:6-10, ending with "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Collectors can contact these medalists for availability and pricing information at eob@wp.pl and incirauskas@gmail.com. For further information about the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, visit www.amuseum.org/jahf.

BROOKGREEN WORKSHOPS

August 8 - 12, Make Your Own Brookgreen Medal, with Heidi Wastweet, FNSS, \$650, plus materials fee

A single-sided art medal is a bite-size project that can be done in four days. On the first day, Heidi Wastweet will take students around the grounds to take their own reference photos. Then there will be two-and-a-half days of sculpting and a half day of mold making. For an additional fee of \$100 to cover the cost of casting, patina, and shipping, she will send your piece to a foundry and ship to you a finished bronze medal. Those who do not want a bronze can take home a plaster cast.

August 29 - September 2, The Portrait in Relief Sculpture: A Course in Medallic Design and Process, with Eugene Daub, FNSS. \$650 plus materials fee

Learning the practice of relief sculpture applied to the portrait is the focus of this workshop. Students will learn how to cast their work in plaster and work into the negative mold. The positive effect of this method cannot be overstated. Students will work from a photo reference. The word, "medallic", does not necessarily mean that the portrait will be cast in metal. It is used here as a term that connotes the format, process, or size. The workshop also covers how the finished plaster can be reduced to a smaller size and cast into different materials such as bronze, resin, and clay. We will discuss alternative ways of making medals. Patination will be covered and, if time allows, there will be a demonstration by the instructor.

For more information on either workshop, please visit www.brookgreen.org/sculpture-workshops

2022 MEDAL MAKING WORKSHOP AT THE SCENIC LA BOUYSSSE IN FRANCE

September 3rd - September 10, 2022

Medalist Geer Styn will organize a bilingual masterclass in the South of France for 6 or 7 persons. Everybody has their own private room and we have a common studio and library.

One double room still available - costs about 700 euro p p . , which means lessons + materials + all the dinners, breakfast + lunches.

More information:
geersteyn@gmail.com

